



# THE DISPATCH

FALL 2020

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Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War  
SUVCW



## Commander's Column

### Brother's:

I have been active in installing and dedicating the Last Soldier markers in Northern Wisconsin. I expect to complete the remainder of the graves in Northwestern Wisconsin by late fall.

DSVC John Decker has stepped up and offered to do ten markers in the middle and western part of the State.

Camp 8 recently had a dedication for Shawano County.

Camp 1 has purchase a marker for Kewaunee County.

PCC Bob Koenecke has also done a number of the markers in central Wisconsin.

I thank all of you who are helping get this project done.  
Things are fairly quiet at National due to Covid 19 regulations.  
I wish you all a good fall, and good health.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty.

*Brian D. McManus, Commander*

## Obituaries



**Rolland W. Graf** of Union Grove passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, August 9th at his home. He was born in Chippewa Falls on July 17, 1936. His family later moved to Milwaukee where he spent his early years. He attended St. Leo's Catholic School and Messmer HS where he played football and basketball. Rollie graduated from St. Norbert College where he played forward on the Green Knights basketball team.

After a short stint in the army as a 2nd Lieutenant, he married Clare Gilson at St. Hubert's Church in Rosiere, WI. As educators, both he and his wife taught at Berlin HS; then moved to Elcho, WI and taught at Elcho HS. He was called to active duty with the 32nd Red Army Division for the "Berlin Crisis" and achieved the rank of Captain. He then attended Purdue University where he received his graduate degree. His family moved to Union Grove where he was a guidance counselor at UGHS. He then was employed as an educator and administrator for Racine/Kenosha Technical Institute, later to become Gateway Tech.

Rollie loved sports and assisted in youth basketball sessions on Saturdays, coaching his three sons and their friends.

Traveling was part of the family with many camping trips throughout the US. Later, he and Clare traveled to many European countries, Cuba, Russia and many more.

Rollie was a member of St. Robert Bellarmine Parish since 1965. He was an American Legion member and Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War.

He was preceded in death by his parents Rolland "Cy" and Dorothy Graf; his in laws Blanche and Wallace Gilson; niece Georgina Collura; brothers in law Joe Collura and James Gilson; sister in law Kathy Graf.

He is survived by his four children, Rollie Jr, Jeffrey (Carolyn Wilson), Robert (Rina), and Rachel (Clay) Nelson; grandchildren Matthew, Lauren (Josh) Stephany, Sarah, Lindsey, Ryan, Matt, Kim, Lydia; great grandchild Gideon Stephany. He is further survived by his brother, William; sister, Nancy Collura; brother-in-law and wife, Francis and Donna Gilson; sister-in-law, Lynn Gilson; and nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Visitation for family and friends will be held on Saturday, August 15th from 9am-11am at the funeral home. Prayer service will begin at 11 am. Full military honors will immediately follow. Please be sure to wear a mask in accordance with the State mandate.

The family wishes to thank the Yorkville/Union Grove Rescue Squad for their valiant efforts to resuscitate Rollie.

Memorials can be made to St. Robert Bellarmine Parish, American Heart Association, Yorkville/ Union Grove Rescue Squad, or Graham Public Library.



**Lyman Edward Elliott Jr.**, 74, of Sturgeon Bay, passed away on Aug. 10, 2020. He was born to Lyman Edward Elliott Sr. and Lorraine Griffin on July 8, 1946 in Elkhorn, Wisconsin.

He Graduated from Franklin High School and the Milwaukee Area Technical College for Diesel Mechanics.

Lyman retired from American Can Company. He worked at American Millwork and Hardware before moving to Sturgeon Bay. He owned and operated Elliott's Mercantile in Sturgeon Bay with his wife Paddy. His love for fine cigars and conversation went hand in hand.

Elliott also was passionate about Civil War Reenacting. He was a member of the Sons of the Veterans of Civil War and belonged to many Reenacting Groups. Elliott was a true patriot and loved a good campfire. He loved burning wood, cutting it, and making projects from it.

Lyman is remembered by his wife Patricia (Bahl) Elliott, his mother Lorraine (Griffin) Elliott; his 3 sons: Lyman (Jennifer) Elliott III and their children, Lyman IV, Griffin, and Lincoln; Jeffery (Katie) Elliott and their children, Nora and Miles; and David Elliott; 4 brothers, John Elliott, James Elliott, Robert Elliott, Edward Elliott; 5 sisters, Kathleen Owens, Marilyn Murphy, Loretta Elliott, Alice Elliott and Bernice Elliott; brother-in-law Frederick (Mary) Bahl; also many aunts, uncles, nephews and nieces.

He was preceded in death by his father and other family members.

A public visitation will be held at St. Joseph Catholic Church on Monday, Aug. 17, 2020 from 10:30 am until 12:00 noon. At 12:00 noon a mass will be conducted by Rev. Robert Stegmann. Face masks are required for all in attendance.

To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of Lyman E. Elliott Jr., please visit our [floral store](#).



## Camp 1

### 45th anniversary in Sons for Rich Beggs



As a boy in Clintonville, Wis., Rich Beggs was fascinated by an old rifle that his father kept in the rafters of his store. When it finally was given to him on his 16th birthday, he began to research it – and discovered it was used by his own relative in 1864.

That began Beggs' love of all things about the Civil War. Two decades later, he joined the SUVCW in 1975 and is Camp 1's longest-tenured member. He hit his 45th anniversary on Aug. 1.

The gun proved to be an 1864 Springfield used by his great-grandfather, Pvt. James Beggs of the 5th Wisconsin Infantry, who served from Aug. 25, 1864, to June 20, 1865. James was from Almond in Portage County and enlisted with his brother, Albert, who was killed on April 2, 1865, the last day of the siege at Petersburg and one week before Lee surrendered to Grant.

Beggs had not known about his heritage until that point, and "my family knew little about it, either." An 1864 letter from James was in a box somewhere, but "they were not genealogy buffs so they had no appreciation of it."

Beggs is a 1959 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis and served until 1986, and was captain of the USS Macdonough, a guided missile destroyer that had a crew of nearly 400.

In 1975, "I was in Washington, D.C., and went to a Civil War re-enactment at Fort Ward in Alexandria, Va. A guy there told me about the Sons."

He soon joined as an at-large member in Wisconsin, and was assigned to Camp 1 about 15 years later. Beggs became a dual member with Camp 8 in the late 1990's.

### Camp 1 highlights its long history

C.K. Pier Badger Camp #1 of Milwaukee, founded in 1901, featured its storied history in multiple ways during the summer.

The Camp initiated its two newest members at the grave of its first commander, George A. Shaughnessy, at Calvary Cemetery. The new members were Peter Keepman and Anthony Maresca.

Shaughnessy had joined C.K. Pier Camp #35 in February 1898. It merged with Badger Camp # 1 in December 1901.

PCinC Steve Michaels reported that George Alexander Shaughnessy was born Jan. 21, 1853, in Wausau, to George Shaughnessy Sr. and Margaret Woodruff (nee Dalrymple), both Irish immigrants. The elder George enlisted as a private in Co. G, 12th Wisconsin Infantry in June 1861. Three years later, he died of disease at Big Shanty, Ga. He is buried at the Marietta National Cemetery in Georgia. See <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/3956307/george-shaughnessy>

Ever since he was a teenager, the younger George had worked as a carpenter. In May 1878, at age 25, he married Theresa Killmaier, a daughter of German immigrants, in Milwaukee. Theresa had grown up in Beaver Dam, and her father also was a carpenter, so the couple lived in Beaver Dam for about a dozen years. After Theresa's parents passed away, the couple returned to Milwaukee.

After the Third Ward fire of 1892 and the Financial Panic of 1893, George saw an opportunity. Despite heavy losses in the area, he started a confectionary business in 1893. That business became a grocery store on what is now East St. Paul Avenue on the northern edge of the Third Ward.



He remained a member of the Sons and Camp 1 for the rest of his life. He died on June 17, 1911, at the age of 58 and was buried at Calvary. A huge family stone was installed. His wife, Theresa, died the next year.



## Camp 1

– In its monthly newsletter, the Camp ran its full list of 52 commanders, from Shaughnessy to Brian Craig today.

Many have served multiple times, some others have served non-consecutive terms, and some have done both. One man, Joseph Scheuren, led for single terms in three different, non-consecutive decades (1907, 1923 and 1937). Steve Michaels has served multiple terms in two different centuries (1995-98; 2017-18).

The champion for longevity is Herman T. Black, commander from 1963-'83.

— A project by Camp 1 member Tom Ludka showed that there are 71 known unmarked graves of Civil War veterans at Calvary Cemetery, but the location of more than one-quarter of them cannot be determined. So they are unmarked, unmarked graves.

These are findings from Ludka and Marge Berres of the Woman's Relief Corps.

The two have collaborated for many years, and their efforts were big reasons for the Camp erecting historical markers at Calvary and Forest Home Cemetery in 2018 and 2016, respectively. But their efforts did not end when the markers went up.



*A visitor at the Civil War Encampment at Old Falls Village in Menomonee Falls examines artifacts along with Brothers Keith Rahn, right, and Peter Keepman. PDC Tom Brown thrilled another member of the public by teaching him to load and fire a rifle.*



*Camp 1 initiated its two newest members at the grave of its first commander, George A. Shaughnessy. As the ritual instructs, Anthony Maresca and Peter Keepman, right, grasp the flag. Holding the Bible was Charlie Scheuing-Rademacher, who joined his Mom to retrieve Memorial Day flags*



## Camp 8



*Shown from left to right are Ron Arndt, Gary Schneider, Kirby Scott, Brian Peters, Kim J. Heltemes Sam Solberg, and a local bugler, Brent.*

On Saturday, September 12, 2020 members from Old Camp 8 performed a Last Soldier Ceremony for Nathan Lake who was the last Union Soldier to be buried in Shawano County, Wisconsin at Woodlawn Cemetery,

Though the weather was gloomy, and a good steady rain was falling, Old Abe Camp 8 members installed the Last Soldier marker before the ceremony would take place. About 20 minutes before the start of the ceremony the rain stopped and a good size crowd came up the hill to witness how we, as blood descendants of Civil War Soldiers, honor our ancestors who served our country.



### NATHAN LAKE

Nathan H. Lake was born June 30, 1847, in Gransville, Wisconsin. He was the son of Jesse and Rebecca Lake.

Nathan enlisted on June 4, 1864 in Milwaukee, in the 41st Wisconsin Infantry, Company F. He accompanied the command to Memphis and was at that place when Major General Nathan Forrest made his midnight raid which had 3 objectives: to capture 3 Union generals posted there; to release southern prisoners from Irving Black Prison; and to cause the recall of Union forces from Northern Mississippi. After 100 days Nathan

was discharged in Milwaukee.

On February 27, 1865, he reenlisted in the 51st Wisconsin Infantry, Company A, for one year during the war. His company was forwarded to St. Louis, where he was stationed when the events transpired which closed the war and was engaged in guarding the construction forces on the Pacific Railroad until August 1865, when he was mustered out.

Four of his brothers were in the United States service in the Civil War. Benjamin Lake enlisted in the 14th Wisconsin Infantry, Company C, and after fighting the war, died in St. Louis. Boyd Lake enlisted in the 32nd Wisconsin Infantry, Company H, and died after the war in Milwaukee. Marion Lake is a resident of Missouri and John Lake lives in Dakota. The enlisted respectively in the 14th Wisconsin Infantry, Company G. Nathan's sister, Eliza, is the widow of George Snyder. Caroline is the widow of Nathan Wheeler and lives in Dakota. Another sister, Laura T., married John Trentlage, of Fond du Lac County, who is postmaster at Waucousta.

Nathan returned to Milwaukee for a short time, then he moved to Fond du Lac. On October 24th, 1867, he married Ella Hull of Ashford, and Fond du Lac was their home until 1877. Then they moved to a farm in Shawano County where he was a substantial farmer and a member of the G.A.R. Post No. 81.

Five of their seven children were living at the time of his death. Their names are Minnie, Jesse, Clara, Boyd, and Daisy. Marion and Alice were laid to rest. Mr. Lake is a substantial farmer of Shawano County. According to the 1890 Veterans Census, Nathan suffered from epilepsy. His obituary stated he was living in Waupaca, probably the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King, for the previous 16 years to his death.



## Camp 15

### CAMP #15's OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS

Two of Camp #15's brothers stand out for their generous contributions to the camp the last few months – Chaplain Jerry Coveney and our new member from Monroe, Wis., Brother Jon Rupp. Our hats are off to you both.

Chaplain Coveney is shepherding the restoration work at Lafayette Church, and doing a lot of the heavy lifting himself, including scraping the peeling paint off the exterior while perched atop shaky ladders. In addition, Chaplain Coveney is paying for the \$1,200 in paint and caulking needed for the church's exterior.

This is on top of a thousand dollars Chaplain Coveney has already paid out for ten new casement windows in the church's basement, and another \$1,925 he contributed to pay for the setting of 11 tombstones as part of the Adopt A Soldier project at Forest Home Cemetery.

Our magnanimous chaplain also has taken the lead in ordering new tombstones from the VA for three Civil War veterans buried in White Oak Cemetery next to Lafayette Church and one Mexican War veteran buried there. Chaplain Coveney also personally trimmed back the overgrown shrubbery in the cemetery so old tombstones of those veterans can be seen. Brother Coveney, we salute you. Your generosity and hard work does you great credit, sir.

Chaplain Coveney's wife Lisa has also been generous, sharing photos she took at the camp's Sept. 19th commemoration of the anniversary of Col. Hans C. Heg's death and other photos.

Brother Rupp, our new camp member from Green County to the west, has been quick with his checkbook, too, making two contributions of \$200 each over the past month to help with the Lafayette Church restoration. Brother Rupp is a long-time member of Zwingli United Church of Christ in Monticello, Wis. Since church history has always been important to him, Brother Rupp says he appreciates Camp #15's restoration of Lafayette Church.

Brother Rupp also secured some 300 Civil War magazines for the Lafayette Church's new library, driving to Bellville, Wis., to obtain the magazines from the widow of a veteran who was a big Civil War buff. Brother Jon Rupp, you are a gentleman and a scholar and we salute you as well.

This veteran's widow was looking for a case for the U.S. flag presented her at her husband's burial and Chaplain Coveney once again stepped up, finding a flag case among the items stored in the Lafayette Church basement. Lisa Coveney paid for replacing the missing glass on the cover of the case and Brother Rupp will be delivering the flag case to the widow. Thank you, Lisa



We should mention other camp members who have done their part for the camp the past few months. Here's the list:

- Department Chaplain Gerry Drought, Council Member Mike Wozny, Brother David K. Miller, and Patriotic Instructor Rich Kallan for the regular mowing and other maintenance work at our Lafayette Church.
- Department Commander Brian McManus for installing Last Soldier Markers in a dozen counties in northern Wisconsin the past few months as he traveled the state.
- Brother Bob Koenecke and Brother McManus for taking apart the old fuel-oil furnace in the basement of Lafayette Church and doing the heavy lifting – literally – in getting the parts out and to the junkyard. Next step – installing the new propane furnace obtained by Brother Koenecke.
- Brother Jeff Graf who recruited two new members who were at a Fourth of July celebration where our PDC talked up the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and offered to do an Ancestry.com search of their Civil War relatives.
- Brother Wozny again who is re-arranging the wall displays in the basement of Lafayette Church to better tell the story of the historic church and re-ordering the furniture in the room to make better use of the space.
- And let's not forget Mike Zei, a retired painting contractor from East Troy who has been doing most of the painting of the church's exterior, now with a first coat almost completed. Zei read about the camp's restoration work on Lafayette Church and volunteered his professional services. We thank you, Mr. Zei.



## Camp 15

Congressman Bryan Steil visited the statue of Col. Hans Christian Heg in Wind Lake, Wis., on Aug. 3rd as part of his effort to get Congress to rename the Muskego, Wis., Post Office after the Civil War hero.

"We are proud to claim him as one of our own," Steil said as he decried a mob that tore down a duplicate statue of Heg during rioting in Madison on June 23. "Ignorance is dangerous and we will not allow future generations of Wisconsinites to forget the sacrifice and service of Col. Heg," Steil said.

The statue of Heg in Wind Lake, standing in Heg Park across from the Norway Town Hall, will be used to cast a mold for the restoration of the Heg statue that had stood outside the State Capitol in Madison before rioters protesting racial injustice toppled the statue. The head of that statue is still missing.

Ironically, Heg was a leader in the anti-slavery movement in Wisconsin in the years leading up to the Civil War and died at the battle of Chickamauga in 1863 leading his Wisconsin regiment against Confederate troops.

"Col. Heg was an abolitionist, an immigrant and military leader who died fighting to end slavery," Steil noted.

Jean Jacobson, the Norway Town Board chair, told the audience viewing the Heg monument that the statue, just across the road from the Town Hall, was a daily reminder of Heg's honorable service to the country to end slavery. "The Town of Norway is proud to be Col. Heg's home town," Jacobson added.

Wind Lake is also home to the Col. Hans C. Heg Camp #15 of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW). Brian McManus, commander of the SUVCW's Wisconsin department, called the destruction of the Heg statue in Madison "outrageous." "The fact that his statue was torn down, beheaded and thrown in a nearby lake is indicative of how ignorant people are of the history of the state of Wisconsin," McManus added.

Heg was the highest-ranking Wisconsin officer killed in the Civil War. A native of Norway, Heg came to the Muskego area with his immigrant parents in 1839 and helped establish the "Old Muskego Settlement" on Muskego Lake.

Steil, a Republican who represents southeastern Wisconsin, said that the state's four other Republican members of Congress are co-sponsors of his bill to rename the Muskego Post Office after Heg.



## **Camp 15**

Camp #15 has installed a new tombstone to replace the crumbling grave marker for Civil War veteran Jonathan W. Smiley, an ancestor of Camp #15's Senior Vice Commander Gerry Drought.

Camp #15 officers Jerry Coveney, Bob Koenecke and Jeff Graf installed the new stone Aug. 6th at Smiley's grave in Luther Parker Cemetery in Muskego. Smiley, a private in Company H of the 22nd Wisconsin Infantry Regiment, died of disease on Nov. 14, 1862 at a Union hospital in Lexington, Kentucky. Smiley enlisted on Aug. 15, 1862 and had served in the Union Army less than three months when he died.

Twenty-two years old at the time of his death, Smiley was born in 1841 in the Town of Norway in Racine County, Wisconsin, and served in a regiment, the 22nd Wisconsin, that became famous as the "Abolitionist Regiment" for providing sanctuary for runaway slaves as the regiment fought through the South.

Smiley is buried in Muskego's Luther Parker Cemetery, earlier known as the Drought cemetery since so many members of that family of early settlers are buried there. Smiley's mother was Diana Drought and she and her husband, George Smiley, were among the first settlers in northwestern Norway Township in an area that came to be known as the Muskego settlement.

The old marker for Smiley was more than a 150 years old, broken in half and almost illegible but the outline of a flag could still be seen. That tombstone has now been laid flat on the ground in front of the new tombstone.

Gerry Drought was on hand to help his Camp #15 brothers install the new tombstone for one of his ancestors who served his country in time of war.



***Brothers Bob Koenecke, Jeff Graf and Jerry Coveney, installing new headstone for Jonathan W. Smiley***



## Camp 56

Members of William Colvill Camp 56 officiate at a wreath laying ceremony at the Soldiers & Sailors Monument in St. Paul, Minnesota on Decoration Day, May 30, 2020.



***L to R: Brother Mark Dittman, Signals Officer & Chaplain; Camp Commander Douglas Urbanski; Brother Matthew Heffron. Color Guard provided by members of the First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. Photograph by Brother Mark Campbell, Camp Secretary/Treasurer.***

On September 19, 2020 members of William Colvill Camp 56 took part in a gravestone dedication ceremony at Lone Cedar Cemetery, south of Sherburn, Minnesota. Eagle Scout candidate Isaac Striemer of Sherburn, for his Eagle Scout project, cleaned up and restored Lone Cedar Cemetery. In doing so he noted that the gravestone of his ancestor, Civil War veteran and Medal of Honor recipient Louis Londrosh, had become weathered and illegible. Isaac arranged for a new stone for his ancestor's grave and planned a dedication ceremony, to which he invited Camp 56, First Minnesota reenactors and the local VFW chapter. The gravestone was dedicated and altogether four Civil War veterans in the cemetery were honored at the ceremony: On September 19, 2020 members of William Colvill Camp 56 took part in a gravestone dedication ceremony at Lone Cedar Cemetery, south of Sherburn, Minnesota. Eagle Scout candidate Isaac Striemer of Sherburn, for his Eagle Scout project, cleaned up and restored Lone Cedar Cemetery. In doing so he noted that the gravestone of his ancestor, Civil War veteran and Medal of Honor recipient Louis Londrosh, had become weathered and illegible. Isaac arranged for a new stone for his ancestor's grave and planned a dedication ceremony, to which he invited Camp 56, First Minnesota reenactors and the local VFW chapter. The gravestone was dedicated and altogether four Civil War veterans in the cemetery were honored at the ceremony:

Louis Londrosh, 2nd Minnesota

Stephen Call, 1st Iowa Light Artillery

Johnson Pepper, 1st Wisconsin Hvy Arty

Elijah Smith, 18th New Hampshire Inf.



***Members of the First Minnesota reenactors and Camp 56 pose with Eagle Scout candidate Isaac Striemer and Lincoln reenactor Bryce Stenzel. Camp 56 members are: Camp Commander Douglas Urbanski (first from left), Signals Officer & Chaplain Mark Dittman (third from left) and Secretary/Treasurer Mark Campbell (flag bearer). Photo by Senior Vice Commander & PCC Andrew Willenbring.***

## Patriotic Instruction

### The Spencer Rifle and Carbine

Researched by PDC Tom Brown

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#### Specifications

Length: 47 in. rifle with 30 in. barrel, 39.25 in. carbine with 22 in. barrel

Cartridge: 56-56 rimfire

Caliber: .52 in.

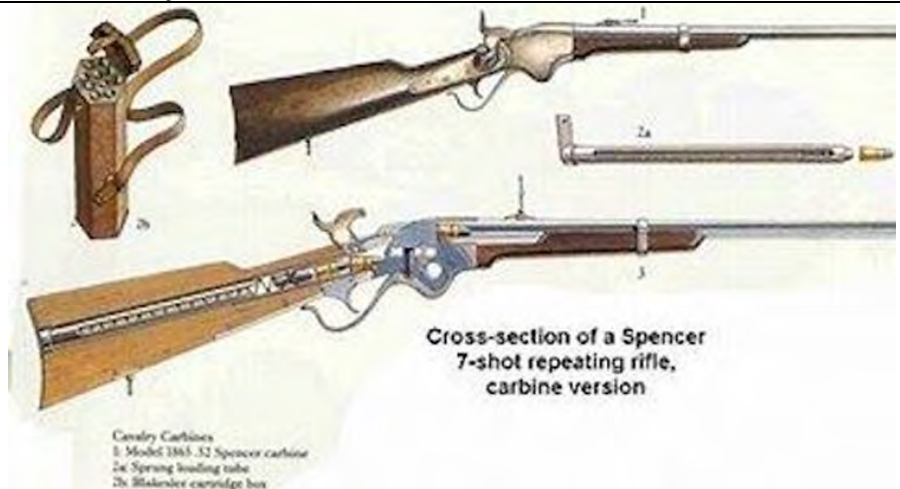
Action: Manually cocked hammer,

Lever action

Muzzle velocity: 931 to 1,033 ft/s

Effective firing range: 500 yards

Feed system: 7 round tube magazine



Spencer repeating rifles and carbines were early American lever-action firearms invented by Christopher Spencer.

The Spencer was the world's first military metallic cartridge repeating rifle; more than 200,000 were manufactured by the Spencer Repeating Rifle Co. and Burnside Rifle Co. between 1860 and 1869.

The Spencer repeating rifle was adopted by some in the Union Army, especially by the cavalry during the Civil War, but did not officially replace the muzzle-loading rifled muskets in use at the time.

The Spencer carbine was a shorter and lighter version designed for the cavalry.

The design for a magazine-fed lever-operated rifle chambered for a 56-56 Spencer rimfire cartridge was completed by Christopher Spencer in 1860.

The Spencer repeater was fired by cocking a lever to extract a used case and feed a new cartridge from a tube in the buttstock. Like most firearms of the time, the hammer had to be manually cocked after each round in a separate action before the weapon could be fired.

The weapon used copper rimfire cartridges, based on the 1854 Smith & Wesson patent, stored in a seven-round tubular magazine. A spring in the tube allowed the round to be released one after another. When empty, the spring had to be removed before putting in fresh cartridges, and then replaced before firing. Rounds could be loaded one at a time or from a Blakeslee cartridge box, which contained up to 13 tubes of seven cartridges.

When Spencer signed his new rifle up for adoption right after the Civil War broke out, the view by the Department of War Ordnance was that soldiers would waste ammunition by firing so fast with repeating rifles, and he was denied a government contract for all such weapons.

The department encouraged the use of breech-loading single-shot carbines like most arms of the day, but shorter rifles were more suited to mounted warfare. The biggest fear was that the Army's logistics train could not keep up with the demand. Also, cost was another problem, the Spencer was several times the cost of a Springfield rifled musket (\$40).

Shortly after the Battle of Gettysburg, Spencer was able to gain an audience with President Abraham Lincoln, who invited him to a shooting match and demonstration of the weapon on the lawn of the White House. Lincoln was impressed with the weapon, and ordered Gen. James Wolfe Ripley to adopt it for production. Ripley disobeyed the order and continued to use the old single-shooters.





## The Spencer Rifle and Carbine



Gettysburg was the first major battle of the war where Spencer rifles were used – they recently had been issued to the 13th Pennsylvania Reserves. They were used at Chickamauga and became fairly widespread in the western armies. But the Army of the Potomac rarely used these rifles.

The Spencer was a very reliable weapon under combat conditions, with a rate of fire 14 to 20 rounds per minute, compared to two to three rounds per minute for the standard muzzleloaders. But detractors complained that the amount of smoke produced made it even harder to see the enemy; muzzleloaders long had been quickly blinding whole regiments.

One of the advantages of the Spencer Rifle was that its ammunition was waterproof and hardy and could withstand constant jostling of long storage on the march. The story goes that every round of paper and linen Sharps ammunition carried by supply wagons was found useless after a long storage in supply wagons. The metallic cartridges of the Spencer had no such problem.

In 1867, Brig. Gen. James F. Rusling of the Quartermaster's Department recommended exclusive use of the carbine on cavalry against mounted Indian raiders after completing a one-year tour of the new western territories.

In the late 1860s, the Spencer Co. was sold to Fogerty Rifle Co. and ultimately to Winchester. Many surplus Spencers were sold to France, where they were used during the Franco-Prussian War in 1870. Even though the company went out of business in 1869, ammunition was manufactured in the US into the 1920s. Many rifles were later converted to center-fire cartridges made from center-fire .50-70 brass.

# **Patriotic Instruction**

## **Madison, Milwaukee were not the only training sites**

### **By Tom Mueller, PCC**

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While Madison and Milwaukee carried most of the load when it came to being the sites of Civil War training camps before regiments left for the war, plenty of other cities around the state were locations, too.

Madison was the site for organizing and mustering 30 full units and Milwaukee 17, according to a count of the histories at <http://civilwararchive.com/unionwi.htm>

Twelve were mustered at Racine, and others at places like Ripon, Janesville, New Lisbon, La Crosse, Oshkosh, Fond du Lac, etc.

The histories are for full units and do not report how some individual companies in regiments were recruited in individual cities or areas.

Among other noteworthy findings from examining all the histories together is that only two of the 13 light artillery batteries were organized and mustered in Madison (the 11th) or Milwaukee (13th).

Ten of the infantry regiments were organized and mustered outside Madison or Milwaukee. There were 53 such regiments overall, plus the three-month unit of the 1st Infantry.

Some regiments were sent out of state almost immediately – such as the 21st Infantry being mustered in Sept. 5, 1862, and being sent to Cincinnati, Ohio, on Sept. 11 – while generally the light artillery trained for a couple months or longer before leaving Wisconsin.

Here is a list of the sites other than Madison and Milwaukee where regiments and batteries were organized and mustered.

- **1st Regiment Cavalry:** Organized at Ripon and Kenosha, Sept. 1, 1861, to Feb. 2, 1862. Mustered in March 10, 1862. Left state for St. Louis, Mo., March 17.
- **3rd Regiment Cavalry:** Organized at Janesville, Nov. 30, 1861, to Jan. 31, 1862. Mustered in Jan. 28, 1862. Moved to St. Louis, Mo., March 26-28.
- **4th Regiment Cavalry:** Organized at Racine as 4th Wisconsin Infantry and mustered in July 2, 1861. Moved to Baltimore, Md., July 15-22. Its designation was changed to cavalry after the fall of Port Hudson, La., in 1863.
- **1st Independent Battery Light Artillery:** Organized at La Crosse and mustered in Oct. 10, 1861. Moved to Camp Utley, Racine, no date given, and ordered to Louisville, Ky., Jan. 23, 1862.
- **2nd Independent Battery Light Artillery:** Organized at La Crosse and mustered in at Racine, Oct. 10, 1861. Moved to Baltimore, Md., Jan. 21-27, 1862.
- **3rd Independent Battery Light Artillery:** Organized at Racine and mustered in Oct. 10, 1861. Ordered to Louisville, Ky., Jan. 23.
- **4th Independent Battery Light Artillery:** Organized and mustered in at Racine, Oct. 1, 1861. Ordered to Baltimore, Md., Jan. 21, 1862.
- **5th Independent Battery Light Artillery:** Organized at Racine and mustered in Oct. 10, 1861. Left state for St. Louis, Mo., March 15, 1862.
- **6th Independent Battery Light Artillery:** Organized at Racine and mustered in Oct. 2, 1861. Moved to St. Louis, Mo., March 15-16, 1862.
- **7th Independent Battery Light Artillery:** Organized at Racine and mustered in Oct. 4, 1861. Moved to St. Louis, Mo., March 15-16, 1862.
- **8th Independent Battery Light Artillery:** Organized at Racine and mustered in Jan. 8, 1862. Ordered to St. Louis, Mo., March 18.
- **9th Independent Battery Light Artillery:** Organized at Burlington and mustered in Jan. 27, 1862. Moved to St. Louis, Mo., March 18-19.
- **10th Independent Battery Light Artillery:** Organized at New Lisbon and mustered in Feb. 10, 1862. Moved to St. Louis, Mo., March 18-20.
- **12th Independent Battery Light Artillery:** Organized at St. Louis, Mo., as a company for the 1st Missouri Light Artillery, to be known as the 12th Wisconsin Battery, February and March, 1862.
- **3rd Regiment Infantry:** Organized at Fond du Lac and mustered in June 19, 1861. Ordered to Hagerstown, Md., July 12.
- **13th Regiment Infantry:** Organized at Janesville and mustered in Oct. 17, 1861. Left state for Leavenworth, Kan., Jan. 13, 1862.
- **14th Regiment Infantry:** Organized at Fond du Lac and mustered in Jan. 30, 1862. Left state for St. Louis, Mo., March 8.
- **21st Regiment Infantry:** Organized at Oshkosh and mustered in Sept. 5, 1862. Left state for Cincinnati, Ohio, Sept. 11.
- **22nd Regiment Infantry:** Organized at Racine and mustered in Sept. 2, 1862. Left state for Cincinnati, Ohio, Sept. 16.
- **25th Regiment Infantry:** Organized at La Crosse and mustered in Sept. 14, 1862. Ordered to St. Paul, Minn., Sept. 19.
- **31st Regiment Infantry:** Companies A to F organized at Prairie du Chien and mustered in Oct. 9, 1862. Companies G to K organized at Camp Utley, Racine, and mustered in Dec. 24, 1862. Regiment ordered to Columbus, Ky., March 1, 1863.
- **32nd Regiment Infantry:** Organized at Oshkosh and mustered in Sept. 25, 1862. Left state for Memphis, Tenn., Oct. 30.
- **33rd Regiment Infantry:** Organized at Racine and mustered in Oct. 18, 1862. Left state for Memphis, Tenn., Nov. 12.



# Milwaukee Soldiers Home Visit

By PCinC Steve Michaels

It's been six years since C.K. Pier Badger Camp #1 lost its meeting place in Building 1 of Milwaukee's Soldiers Home. The Soldiers Home historic district remained largely fenced off and vacant for five years. However, behind the scenes, negotiations and fundraising were underway.

In 2016, the Alexander Co. and the city Housing Authority signed an agreement with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to restore and rehabilitate six Soldiers Home buildings, including the iconic Old Main. Under the proposal, the renovated buildings would provide supportive housing units for veterans and their families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

The rehabilitation project cost \$40 million. The vast majority, \$36 million, was secured through private investments. A coalition of organizations and volunteers dedicated to saving the Soldiers Home launched a capital campaign to raise the remainder from private funds.

The rehabilitation of six of the district's historic buildings began a year ago. A total of 101 supportive housing units for veterans and their families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless are slated to be completed by Spring 2021.

I had seen videos and images online of the positive changes taking place at Milwaukee's Soldiers Home and had to see for myself.



ADMINISTRATION BUILDING BUILDING 1	OLD MAIN BUILDING 2	DUPLEXES BUILDINGS 11, 13, 14, 62
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Single room occupancy units for 14 veterans and their families</li><li>• Community and activity areas</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 70 one-bedroom apartments</li><li>• 10 two-bedroom apartments</li><li>• Community spaces</li><li>• Resource centers</li><li>• Fitness area</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Restored as duplexes with two-story, three-bedroom units on each side</li><li>• Bldg 14 will remain a single-family, four-bedroom</li></ul>

Old Main (Building 2), designed by Edwin Townsend Mix and completed in 1869, housed resident veterans for over 100 years.

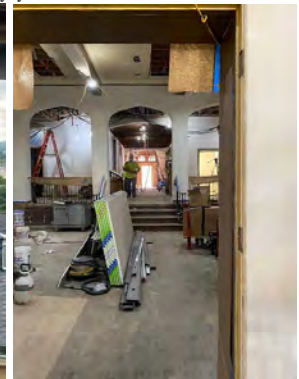
The Entrance to Old Main is being restored to its past grandeur. Note the new roof flashing and tiles. The fine architectural details are visible again, especially around the cupolas. Tuckpointing and complete facade restoration eliminated the need for the netting that enveloped the main tower for several years, preventing falling brick.

Old Main will contain 70 one-bedroom apartments and ten two-bedroom apartments, community spaces, resource centers, fitness area and management offices. There's still extensive scaffolding on the backside of Old Main, indicating much exterior work remains.

The Administration Building (#1) is also receiving needed attention. Camp 1 and several other local non-profit groups held meetings in the Administration building. Built in 1896, the Administration Building contained the offices of the Governor, treasurer, quartermaster, adjutant, clerical staff, commissary officer, chief guard, and the fire marshal. The second floor contained reading and sleeping quarters for clerks who were civilian employees. The basement contained the print shop. It served as the VA center main office until 1942, after which it housed the domiciliary staff office and the campus post office.

New flashing, doors and porch foundation are readily apparent. Single room units for 14 veterans and their families with community and activity rooms.

The quality exterior restoration work I observed was truly dramatic and wonderful to see after so many years.





## Milwaukee Soldiers Home Visit cont.



The Ward Memorial Hall (Building 41) was built in 1881-82. Prominent Milwaukee architect Henry C. Koch designed the building with a theater/meeting room, store, restaurant, and railroad ticket office. This unusual combination of building uses was intended to address the growing recreational needs of the Soldiers Home. In 1898, the theater space was reconfigured to have a sloped floor, balcony, and boxes flanking the proscenium stage.

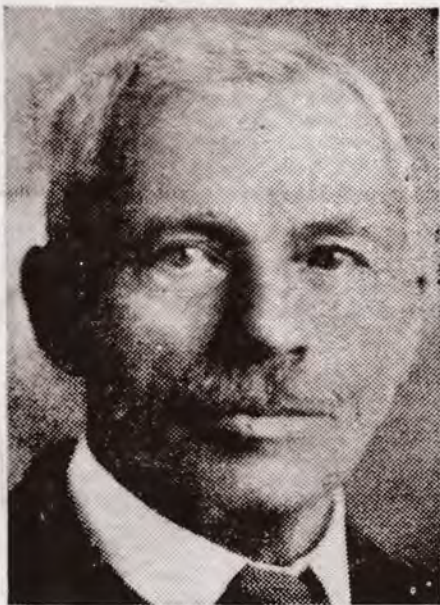
In recent years, the building had been vandalized and was boarded up. Its trademark stained glass window, featuring Gen. U.S. Grant, a gift from the 1887 National GAR Encampment in St. Louis, was put into storage in 2011, for safekeeping. While the exterior has been cleaned up, the Ward Memorial Theater is currently vacant and in need of rehabilitation.

### 1910 Wisconsin Dept. Pioneers

**Walter C. Winters**

**"Public Service and Fraternalism"**

**By PCinC Stephen Michaels**



WALTER C. WINTER

At the 1893  
Dept  
Encampment,  
La Crosse's  
Walter Clarence  
Winters was  
elected  
Commander.

Brother Winter  
was born  
August 4, 1857  
in Dixfield,  
Maine, the  
younger of two  
boys, born to  
Elisha and  
Anna (Mitchel)

Winter. On his father's side, he was a descendant of Governor Bradford of the Plymouth colony. His father, who was a judge, raised a company of men and served as captain of Company D, 12<sup>th</sup> Maine Infantry

from November 1861 to December 1864. In April 1865, he died of injuries received during the Battle of Cedar Creek. The two boys were raised by their mother until her death in 1875. Walter graduated from Bowdoin College in 1883, where he was an athlete on the rowing and baseball teams, presiding officer of the Theta Delta Chi fraternity and president of his class.

Immediately upon graduation, he came west and taught for a year as principal at schools in Kilbourn and Kewaunee. He then studied law with a judge in Sparta and was admitted to the Wisconsin Bar in 1887. He then became a member of the law firm of Winter, Esch and Winter, where he stayed until retiring in 1918. He was extremely well-liked and well-thought of by both clientele and the public.

La Crosse's Robert Hughes Camp #42 was formed during the excitement surrounding the 1889 National Grand Army Encampment held in Milwaukee.



## 1910 Wisconsin Dept. Pioneers

When the 1891 Department Encampment was held in La Crosse, Camp #42 was one of two Camps rated highest in inspections. Br. Winter was appointed to a committee on Encampment work and the following year to the Dept Council. He was completing his service as Camp 42's Commander.

Winter's was not an easy administration. The depression following the Panic of 1893 devastated membership. Within two years the department dropped nearly one thousand members. In addition to financial issues, some suspected too many young boys, who quickly lost their enthusiasm, were recruited.

The 1893 National Encampment reacted by changing the eligibility age from 18 to 21. The downward trend did not change and the age was returned to 18 the next year. Others felt that the Order should introduce more ritualistic work and the 1894 National Encampment approved a 3-degree ritual. Despite reorganization of some the state's camps, department membership was 724 in 33 Camps. A year earlier, Wisconsin had 742 members in 31 Camps.

New camps were organized at Campbellsport, Fennimore, Hudson, and Sharon. In early May 1894, Mernon Kerby Camp #19 was chartered in Grand Rapids. The Stevens Point Camp and Oshkosh's Old Abe Camp #80 were reorganized. Two years earlier, Oshkosh had the largest camp in the state. Camps at Kenosha, LaValle and Wautoma disbanded. Additionally, only two Ladies Aid Societies were active: one at Sheboygan and the other at La Crosse.

Winter reported, "During the past year, the membership of our division has decreased in spite of the efforts of your division officers. The old camps have barely held their own at the best and many of them have not succeeded in doing so."

Sadly, Camp 42 disbanded and was later rechartered in 1904 as Col. Moore Camp #22. It was necessary for Br. Winter to be reinstated as PDC at the 1905 Dept. Encampment.

The Camp was reorganized again in 1912 and was rechartered as Robert Hughes Camp #19. PDC Winter served again as Camp Commander. The camp rechartered one more time in 1920, but did not survive World War II.

In 1899, Winter worked for the Omaha Line at St. Paul, Minnesota, and Superior, Wisconsin. He soon returned to La Crosse and was elected to the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors from the 16<sup>th</sup> Ward.

He served on the Board of Supervisors from 1901 to 1919, serving as chairman the last two years. He then resigned to become supervisor of assessors, a position he held for four years. Afterwards, he was a member of La Crosse's assessment board.

In 1892, Br. Winter was a charter member of La Crosse's John P. Linton lodge, Knights of Pythias and held many positions in that Order. In May 1900, he was elected Wisconsin Grand Vice Chancellor.

PDC Winter suffered a decline in health after an accidental fall. A few years later, he died of a stroke on November 22, 1934. He was 77 years old. He was survived by his older brother, Frank, cousins in Black River Falls and Augusta, Wis. The Knights of Pythias were in charge of the funeral.

*Chippewa Herald-Tribune, 26 August 1899*

*Green Bay Weekly Gazette, 27 June 1894.*

*La Crosse Tribune, 23 November 1934 and 21 April 1935*

*Portage Daily Register, 10 May 1900*

*Press Forward the Good Work, History of the Wisconsin*

*Department SUVCW by PDC Stephen Michaels, July 1998*





To reach either the Camp's page or its Face book Page, hold curser over the name, hold "Ctrl" and left click

C.K. Pier Badger Camp 1 - Milwaukee  
C. K. Pier Badger Camp #1 and Auxiliary #4 meet on the Second Wednesday of the month (except Aug.), at 7 p.m.,  
Commander: Brian Craige  
C.K. Pier Badger Auxiliary 4

Henry Harnden Camp 2 - Madison  
Commander: Fred J. Campbell  
Henry Harnden Auxiliary 2

Major General John Gibbon Camp 4 - Waukesha  
Meetings @ 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday of every month (except August)  
Commander: H. Craig Wheeler

Old Abe Camp 8 - Fox Cities  
Meeting @ 7 P.M. 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of odd months  
Commander: Alan Petit  
Edward S. Bragg Auxiliary 6  
[Face Book Page](#)

Hans Heg Camp 15  
Meeting @ 7 P.M. 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday, monthly  
Commander: David Daley

L.G. Armstrong 49 – Boscobel  
Meetings @ 7 P.M. 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, monthly  
Commander: Rod Dary

William Colville Camp 56 - Minneapolis/St. Paul  
Meeting held Quarterly, 10am, April 4, place TBA  
Commander: Douglas Urbanski

	
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Signals Officer	Kent Peterson, PDC <a href="mailto:webmaster@sucvw-wi.org">webmaster@sucvw-wi.org</a>
Officers were elected at the 13 June 2020 Department Encampment at Boscobel, Wis. and will serve until the 2021 Department Encampment.	

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SUVCW

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